Swedish Submarine Builders Deal with Pakistan

1627. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Swedish submarine builders-KOCKUMS is entering into a deal with Pakistan for the supply of submarines costing nearly a billion dollars; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to deter the Swedish company not to do so in the interest of peace in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government are aware of efforts by Pakistan to acquire submarines from various countries including Sweden to augment its naval strength. According to information available, however, no deal has been finalised so far.

Our concerns about any arms sale to Pakistan disproportionate to Pakistan's legitimate needs have been conveyed to all concerned including the Swedish Government. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

American Nationals Secret Meeting with the Militants of Kashmir

1628. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the American nationals visited Kashmir in September, 1993, posing as Cable News Network team and held secret meetings with top militants there;

(b) if so, what action was taken by Government against these two persons;

(c) whether the matter was taken up with US Government, if so, the details thereof and reaction of U.S. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government immediately informed US Cd'A about the clandestine activities of the US nationals. The matter was taken up with the local Bureau of CNN in Delhi as well as their head office at Atlanta. CNN office in Delhi has since denied having deputed anyone to visit Kashmir and has put out a word of caution on their network against such deception. The Foreign Correspondents Club of South Asia has passed a resolution deploring the masquerade by the US nationals as journalists. There has been no official reaction from the US Government.

अब्दुल गनी लोन की गिरफ्तारी

1629. **श्री ब्रह्मदेव आनन्द पासवान:** क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय अलगाववादी जिसे उग्रवादी "अब्दुल गनी लोन" के रूप में जाना जाता है, अभी भी कश्मीर में रह रहा है;

(ख) क्या अमरीकी असिस्टेन्ट सेक्रेटरी आफ स्टेट सुश्री राविन राफेल ने यह कहा है कि अमरीका पिछले 18 माह से इस व्यक्ति विशेष के साथ निरन्तर सम्पर्क बनाए हुए है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार अब्दुल गनी लोन के पासपोर्ट को रद्द कर उसे अविलम्ब गिरफ्तार करेगी यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में एक कड़ा विरोध पत्र देना चाहती है, यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल